

## Message Text

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ORIGIN FAA-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00  
DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 INR-10 NSAE-00 L-03 /036 R

DRAFTED BY FAA/ACS-400:CARRINGTON/HAMM:PMA  
APPROVED BY EB/OA/AVP:AJWHITE  
EB/OA/AVP:JSRAVATT  
EUR/WE:EJBEIGEL

-----021279 090735Z /13

R 081708Z SEP 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY ROME  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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ROME AND BRUSSELS PASS FAA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, IT

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: SECURITY SCREENING OF PASSENGERS  
AND CARRY-ON BAGGAGE AT L. DA VINCI AIRPORT, FIUMUCINO

1. AN FAA CIVIL AVIATION SECURITY INSPECTOR RECENTLY  
INSPECTED PAA AND TWA SECURITY PROCEDURES AT L. DA  
VINCI AIRPORT. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY VARIOUS OFFICIALS  
FROM DR. CIANCI'S OFFICE AND D. SWITZER FROM THE FAA'S  
ROME OFFICE. SECURITY AND PASSENGER SCREENING OBSERVED  
DURING THIS INSPECTION WERE CONSIDERED ADEQUATE.

2. ON JULY 24 THE INSPECTOR DEPARTED ROME FOR NICE,  
FRANCE VIA AIR FRANCE FLIGHT 2643. WHILE AWAITING HIS  
FLIGHT HE OBSERVED THE TWO PASSENGER SCREENING POINTS  
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LEADING FROM THE INTERNATIONAL TERMINAL INTO THE STERILE  
CONCOURSE AREA. THESE ARE THE TWO MAJOR SCREENING  
POINTS INTO THE STERILE AREA. DURING A TWENTY-MINUTE  
OBSERVATION PERIOD APPROXIMATELY 300 PERSONS AND THEIR  
CARRY-ON BAGGAGE PASSED THROUGH THE TWO SCREENING  
POINTS. OF THIS NUMBER THE WALK-THROUGH DEVICES "ALARMED"  
ONLY FIVE TIMES AND OF THE FIVE ALARMS, ONLY ONE PASSENGER

WAS REQUIRED TO GO BACK THROUGH THE DEVICE. ALSO, ONLY ONE PIECE OF CARRY-ON BAGGAGE WAS PHYSICALLY INSPECTED AFTER HAVING GONE THROUGH THE X-RAY SEARCH.

3. THESE FIGURES ARE CONSIDERED TO BE EXTRAORDINARILY LOW. THE LACK OF REINSPECTION OF FOUR PASSENGERS WHO ALARMED THE DEVICE CAN POSSIBLY BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE FACT THAT AT THE TWO SCREENING POINTS EACH OF THE TWO OFFICERS RESPONSIBLE FOR MONITORING THE WALK-THROUGH DEVICES WAS ENGAGED IN CONVERSATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS ALMOST THE ENTIRE OBSERVATION PERIOD.

4. EMBASSY IS REMINDED THAT TWA HAS THIS PAST SPRING DISCONTINUED GATE SCREENING, MAKING IT MORE IMPERATIVE THAT EFFECTIVE PASSENGER SCREENING BE PERFORMED AT ALL TIMES BY ITALIAN AUTHORITIES.

5. EMBASSY REQUESTED CONTACT APPROPRIATE ITALIAN AUTHORITY (POSSIBLY DOTT. MICHELE RASCHILLA, DIRECTOR OF THE FRONTIER RAILROAD AND POSTAL POLICE, MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR) AND EXPRESS U.S. CONCERN OVER THE LACK OF CONSISTENT EFFECTIVE SCREENING OF INTERNATIONAL PASSENGERS AT L. DA VINCI. FAA APPRECIATES THAT SECURITY SYSTEMS, EQUIPMENT AND PROCEDURES AT THE AIRPORT ARE VERY GOOD; HOWEVER, INATTENTIVENESS ON THE PART OF THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR SCREENING DEFEATS THE PURPOSE OF ALL THE SYSTEMS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND DEVICES. FAA WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY EXPRESSING ITS HOPE THAT ACTION WILL BE TAKEN TO ENSURE EFFECTIVE SCREENING, I.E., ADJUSTMENT OF THE WALK-THROUGH DEVICES SO THAT THERE IS A HIGH DEGREE OF LIKELIHOOD THAT HANDGUNS WILL BE DETECTED, SEARCH OF THOSE PERSONS WHO ALARM THE DEVICE AND SEARCH OF CARRY-ON BAGGAGE IN WHICH THE X-RAY DISPLAY IS "CLUTTERED" OR OPAQUE, MAKING IS IMPOSSIBLE TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT THE CONTENTS MIGHT INCLUDE A WEAPON.

6. UNSCHEDULED OBSERVATION OF PASSENGER SCREENING AT LEONARDO DA VINCI WILL CONTINUE BY FAA CIVIL AVIATION SECURITY INSPECTORS WHO PASS THROUGH ROME. DETERIORATION IN EFFECTIVENESS AT BASIC SCREENING POINTS MAY CALL FOR ACTION BY FAA TO REQUIRE U.S. FLAG CARRIERS AND FOREIGN AIR CARRIERS DEPARTING FOR U.S. TO INSTITUTE ADDITIONAL SCREENING MEASURES PRIOR TO BOARDING EACH FLIGHT.

7. SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION LETTER OF 4/25/78 SENT TO ITALIAN MINISTER OF TRANSPORT VIA EMBASSY AND DEPARTMENT INDICATED SPECIAL SECURITY MEASURES THEN IN EFFECT FOR CERTAIN AIR CARRIERS (I.E. GATE SCREENING) CONTRIBUTED

TO SATISFACTORY SECURITY AND THAT SUCH MEASURES SHOULD  
CONTINUE IN VIEW OF PAST INCIDENTS AND CURRENT THREAT.  
REACTION OF GOI TO THIS LETTER AND THE FAA RECOMMENDA-  
TIONS IS UNKNOWN.

8. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO REPORT GOI'S REACTION AND ANY  
EVIDENCE OF ACTION TAKEN TO IMPROVE THEIR SECURITY POSTURE.  
CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SECURITY, PASSENGERS, AIRPORTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 08 sep 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978STATE227959  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** 400:CARRINGTON/HAMM:PMA  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780367-0672  
**Format:** TEL  
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**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 512a1054-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN FAA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 05 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Review Release Date:** N/A  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1499679  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CIVAIR: SECURITY SCREENING OF PASSENGERS AND CARRY-ON BAGGAGE AT L. DA VINCI AIRPORT, FIUMUCINO  
**TAGS:** EAIR, IT  
**To:** ROME  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/512a1054-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
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20 Mar 2014  
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